limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Incidents of robbery in Mumbai-Pune Expressway

1020. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spate of incidents involving highway robbery/ambush on Mumbai-Pune Expressway;

(b) whether the expressway users pay Rs. 100/- per trip to use this stretch and if so whether adequate security surveillance measures are provided for by the NHAI on this important highway; and

(c) whether such measures have been included in the packages for Golden Quadrilateral and East-West and North-South Corridor projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI)]: (a) and (b) Mumbai-Pune Expressway is being operated by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) under the State Government of Maharashtra. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is not involved in its operation. As per the information made available by MSRDC some incidents of highway robbery have been reported and additional security measures have been provided on the Expressway.

(c) Provision of highway patrolling has been made by NHAI in the operation and maintenance contract for the aggregate length of 1070 kms of completed 4-laned sections under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

National Highways in NER

1021. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways in the North Eastern Region as on the 31 st October, 2002, District-wise; and